

Arabis crucisetosa Const. & Rollins
cross-haired rock cress
Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G4G5S1

General Description: Short-lived perennial, stems often sparingly branched, 4 to 16 in. (10 to 40 cm) tall; leaves mostly in basal rosettes and tapered to a short petiole, lower surface covered with cross shaped hairs, the upper surface having few or no hairs; racemes ebracteate; siliques linear, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 x $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (20 to 25 x 1 mm), mostly one-nerved, quadrangular to strongly compressed, sessile or subsessile; 2 to 20 flowers, petals white, obovate-spatulate; stigma entire to slightly bi-lobed; seeds many, uniseriate to biseriate, up to 1 in. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ cm) long, oblong and wingless.

Identification tips: Basal leaves are hairy on the lower surface, and the stems are often branched. Leaf margins lack the conspicuous hairs found on *A. furcata* and *A. nuttallii*.

Phenology: Flowering begins in late April and continues through June.

Range: The taxon occurs in western Idaho, eastern Oregon, and in Asotin County, Washington, where it is found mainly on the hills and mountains bordering the Clearwater and the Snake Rivers.

Habitat: The one known population in Washington is located in a smooth sumac-grass community. In Oregon, it is found in a number of communities, including: mid- to low-elevation north-facing grassy slopes dominated by Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*); lower-elevation grasslands in association with snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), bluebunch wheat grass (*Agropyron spicatum*), and Snake River phlox (*Phlox colubrine*); and in mid- to high-elevation coniferous forests in open Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and grand fir (*Abies grandis*) stands.

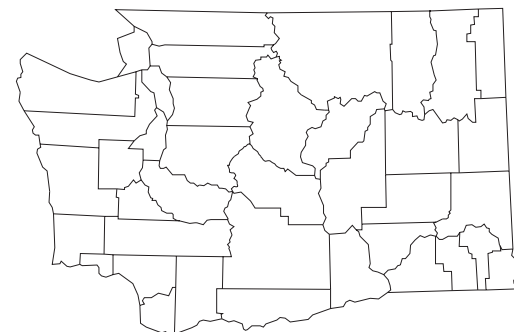
Ecology: This plant has a broad ecological amplitude. It has been found on a number of soil types, including sedimentary, granite, and basaltic soils at elevations as low as 1200 feet (364 m) and as high as 4500 feet (1368 m). Though a single stem is the normal habit of growth, grazed specimens are usually branched (Rollins, 1936).

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Known distribution of
Arabis crucisetosa
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Tracy Rush



Photo by Tracy Rush

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State Status Comments: The small number of known occurrences and the limited range of the species are the primary factors contributing to the sensitive status of this taxon in Washington.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory in the state of Washington is needed to accurately assess the status of this species. Studies that consider the impact of grazing should be undertaken.

Threats and Management Concerns: Grazing of domestic cattle and sheep is a potential threat to this species. The construction of dams may have reduced lowland habitat around the Snake River.

References:

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Rollins, R.C. 1936. *The Genus Arabis L. in the Pacific Northwest*. Master's Thesis. State College of Washington, WA. 78 pp.